

Application No. 10/815,850
Reply to Office Action of November 7, 2005

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 15. This sheet, which includes Figure 15, replaces the original sheet including Figure 15.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-17, 19-21, and 23-31 are pending in this application. Claims 1-13, 18, and 22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Claims 14, 15, and 19 are amended, and new Claims 23-31 are added by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings were objected to; the specification was objected to; Claims 18 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph; Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kampfe (U.S. Patent No. 894,011); Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Mason (U.S. Patent No. 1,268,988); Claims 14 and 17/14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Pontious (U.S. Patent No. 425,695); and Claims 14, 15, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Thompson (U.S. Patent No. 481,269). However, Claim 16 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but otherwise was indicated as including allowable subject matter if re-written in independent form. Claims 19-21 were allowed.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 19-21 and the indication that Claim 16 includes allowable subject matter.

Allowed Claim 19 is amended to correct informalities. No new matter is added and no new issues are believed to be raised.

With regard to the note in the outstanding Office Action that certified copies of the priority documents have not been filed, a certified copy of each priority document was filed on February 3, 2006. Accordingly, the present application is believed to be in compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §119.

With regard to the objection to the drawings, Figure 15 is amended herewith to replace the label “23E” with the label “23F.” The specification is amended to reflect this change. No new matter is added. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is believed to be overcome.

With regard to the objection to the specification, the specification is amended herewith to correct informalities. No new matter is added. Accordingly, the objection to the specification is believed to be overcome.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, Claims 19 and 22 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, making this rejection moot.

With regard to the rejections of Claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Kampfe, Mason, Pontious, or Thompson, those rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amended Claims 14 and 15 recite in part “a scraping up body and a dust picking means supported to a frame, said dust picking means including an adhesive for adhering dust to said dust picking means.”

The outstanding Office Action cited teeth o and receptacle e of Kampfe, the dust bag or collector of Mason, teeth e and receptacle D of Pontious, and shoe B and receptacle C of Thompson as “dust picking means. However, it is respectfully submitted that none of these structures include an adhesive, much less “an adhesive for adhering dust to said dust picking means,” as recited in amended Claims 14 and 15. Accordingly, as none of the cited references teaches each and every element of Claims 14 or 15, Claims 14 and 15 (and Claims 16 and 17 dependent therefrom) are not anticipated by any of Kampfe, Mason, Pontious, or Thompson and are patentable thereover.

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New Claims 23 and 24 correspond to Claims 16/14 and 16/15 written independent form. As Claim 16 was indicated as including allowable subject matter, Claims 23 and 24 are believed to be allowable.

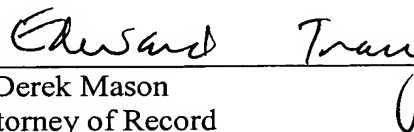
New Claims 25-28 include similar subject matter to Claims 14-18, but do not recite any "means plus function" elements. Accordingly, Claims 25-28 are supported at least by Claims 14-18 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 14 and 15.

New Claims 29-31 include similar subject matter to Claims 19-21, but do not recite any "means plus function" elements. Accordingly, Claims 29-31 are supported at least by Claims 19-21 and are also believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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